

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pedersen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,705). In this Amendment, claim 2 has been canceled and claims 20 and 21 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-21 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Pedersen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,705, hereinafter Pedersen). Claim 1 has been amended and as the rejection may be applied to amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse. Amended claim 1 recites a data storage structure that stores a plurality of sub-networks, wherein each sub-network performs at least three output functions, wherein the data storage structure stores each sub-network based on a parameter derived from all the output functions of the sub-network.

Pedersen does not teach or suggest each recited feature of claim 1. For example, Pedersen does not teach or suggest storing sub-networks that perform at least three output functions, each sub-network being stored based on a parameter derived from all the output functions of the sub-network, as required in claim 1. Figures 7E and 7F of Pedersen, which the Examiner cites, shows a sub-network having only two outputs (u and v). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cite the portion(s) of Pedersen that disclose storing sub-networks that perform at least three output functions, wherein each sub-network is stored based on a parameter derived from all the output functions of the sub-network.

As such, Applicants submit that Pedersen does not teach or suggest each limitation of

claim 1 and that claim 1 is in allowable form. Claims 3-10 are dependent on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 11 is an independent claim containing the “at least three output functions” limitation of claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 12-19 are dependent on claim 11 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

II. New Claims 20 and 21

In this Amendment, Applicants have added claims 20 and 21. New claim 21 recites the data storage structure of claim 1 wherein:

each sub-network comprises a set of circuit elements; and

at least some of the sub-networks comprise a first circuit having a first output outside the sub-network and a second circuit having a second output outside the sub-network, wherein the first circuit receives a direct or indirect input from the second circuit.

New claim 21 is dependent on claim 1 and allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. New claim 20 recites limitations similar to new claim 21 but is dependent on claim 13 and allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13. Further, Pedersen does not disclose, teach, or even suggest each recited feature of new claims 20 and 21.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

Accompanying this Amendment is a copy of an Electronic Information Disclosure Statement that Applicants are submitting concurrently with but separately from this Amendment. This Information Disclosure Statement lists an additional reference for the Examiner's consideration. The Examiner is requested to make this document of record.

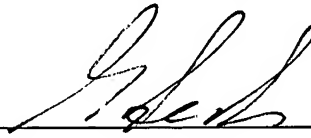
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe that the rejections in the Office Action of January 21, 2005 are fully overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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